

the orator of the day showed to the satisfaction of everybody that

"Tho' every shamrock has with blood been wet,  
There's life, thank God, within the old sod yet."

March 19, Feast of St. Joseph, his Lordship, the Bishop, officiated pontifically at St. Joseph's Church, in Oklahoma City. In the evening he lectured to one attentive and numerous audience.

March 21, St. Benedict's day, Mgr. Meerschaert again sung pontifical High Mass at Sacred Heart Mission, and confirmed over 30 candidates.

Sunday, March 24, the indefatigable Prelate was in Purcell, distributing the bread of life for the first time to a numerous class of Indian children, the pupils of the devoted Sisters of St. Francis and some converts. The same were confirmed on the day above mentioned.

#### **The Senators and the Indian Schools.**

Is it possible that the Senate of the United States will finally commit itself to the policy of founding a State religion? It does not seem possible; yet when we read the debate which took place Thursday, February 21, on the Indian school appropriation, we are led to fear that the loud protestations about separating Church from State, are mere sham and buncombe.

Mr. Cockrell said in the course of the debate that he presumed the item for certain schools was struck out because they were Catholics; and as the committee retained in the bill two schools that are Protestant, he exclaimed:

"We do not believe that to be just or right."

"Have you any evidence," asked Mr. Quay; "that either of these schools is Protestant?"

"Yes, abundant evidence," Mr. C. replied. "It is not denied—nobody can

deny it. When an Indian Catholic child at Lincoln School wanted to attend a Catholic church she was told by one of the teachers that an Episcopal school was good enough for her."

By a vote of 21 to 32, the appropriation for the Protestant schools was left in the bill. In other words, only twenty-one members in the Senate were unwilling to help the efforts made to proselytize Catholic children. The others have arrogantly declared their determination to turn public money to the use of men who deliberately plan to rob one section of the community of that which they hold more precious than gold. Open hostility is respectable beside this detestable pretense of impartiality. The action of those thirty-two men means to establish a Protestant Church in this land and to compel Catholics to help support it by their taxes.

It matters little that the sum is small. It is the principle and the precedent we attack. The Catholic schools for Indians were built by Catholic charity and the education they imparted was of the best stamp, as the records of Congress prove. Why then are they to be deprived of the subsidy hitherto given them by Government? Rascals like Morgan can answer. To separate Church and State? Is the State asked to pay for the religious training given over and above the secular instruction? No; a thousand times. But the word has been passed along the line of the sects, "Force the Indians into Protestant schools, and make the Government pay the teachers." And for once at least a majority of our Senators, dead to the spirit of the Constitution, have been found ready by their votes to consummate this infamy. If Catholics were as disposed to plot as their enemies are to accuse them of so doing, the country would now ring with angry declamation and invective. Or if by any possibility the tables were turned, a mob of Pro-